

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A retractable bowsprit for a sailboat is suitable for use with an asymmetrical spinnaker. A support element and a bowsprit positioner such as a track mounted within a hull of a sailboat allow the bowsprit to assume either an extended or retracted position. The bowsprit positioner is mounted to the bottom of the hull. The support element is positioned forward of and above a forward position of the positioner. The bowsprit can slide through the support element, to allow an aft end of the bowsprit to be attached to the positioner's forward point in the extended position. When the bowsprit is so positioned, the geometry causes the bowsprit to rotate, placing a forward end thereof substantially further above the waterline than is the deck, allowing the crew a view beneath an asymmetrical spinnaker attached to the bowsprit forward end.